

hunger and that is the face of the Americans, our neighbors, and our fellow citizens who are hungry and food insecure.

What does food insecurity mean? Food insecurity is limited or uncertain access to nutritional food. Food insecurity is not knowing from where the next meal is coming.

Food insecurity is not unique among the homeless and unemployed. On the contrary, many food insecure households in America have at least one working adult. We need only compare the national unemployment numbers with the food insecurity numbers to see that they don't match up. There are far more food insecure individuals than there are unemployed people. America's working poor are finding it difficult to make ends meet and at times provide the most basic needs for their family—nutritious food.

Perhaps our most vulnerable food insecure individuals are our children and seniors. Due to the high costs of healthcare and living expenses, many seniors often find themselves choosing between medicine and groceries because they may not be able to afford both. Programs such as Meals on Wheels and local community senior programs are so important to the health of our seniors.

Children rely on parents to provide for their basic needs. Of the 35 million people who are food insecure in America, just over 13 million are children. This is the same number of children that are receiving free lunches through the National School Lunch Program. This vital program provides many children with the most nutritious meal they will receive in a given day. We must continue to find opportunities to fill in the gaps because the National School Lunch Program only covers Monday through Friday during the school year. The traditional three months of summer vacation from school is a critical time when many children are missing essential nutrition in their diets.

One example of a successful program in my home State of Arkansas is helping feed children outside of school. The Arkansas Rice Depot's Food For Kids program provides hungry children with a quick, high-energy snack during school and then provides a backpack filled with nutritious foods children can prepare for themselves at home. The Food For Kids program is serving 329 schools and 15,000 students in Arkansas. Founded in 1995, this program is the first of its kind in the Nation and now 20 cities across the Nation have established similar programs.

Throughout my remarks I have mentioned the word nutrition. In the fight to end hunger, providing access to nutritious food is key. Many Americans are now waking up to the long-term health complications caused by obesity. It may seem strange to talk about obesity and hunger at the same time but the reality is that people with limited access to money and food typically

consume the cheapest food that they can purchase in large quantities, and often these foods lack important nutrients for a balanced diet. We can fight obesity early on by educating children about nutrition and help provide opportunities for children to access nutritious foods at school and at after school programs. Additionally, through food assistance programs we must continue to encourage adults to access nutritious foods and help provide opportunities to learn about nutrition.

For Americans, hunger does not mean entire towns and villages full of starving people—people literally starving and dying because they cannot eat. Fortunately, we are able to provide the citizens most in need with access to some kind of food to meet basic needs through Federal and State assistance programs such as Food Stamps, WIC, the National School Lunch Program, and thousands of non-profit organizations, churches, faith-based groups, and dedicated individuals.

The challenges in America are to continue to find ways to provide Americans that are food insecure with access to nutritious meals and opportunities to gain skills to improve their economic situation and quality of life.

To that end, today, along with my friend from Oregon, Senator SMITH, I am pleased to announce the formation of the U.S. Senate Hunger Caucus. We are delighted that many of our colleagues are joining us in this bipartisan effort to work on national and international hunger issues. The Senate Hunger Caucus will be a vehicle through which Senators can work together to promote initiatives to help address the root causes of hunger and to help form partnerships with the many valuable organizations and programs that are committed to ending hunger.

Just a few hours ago, I was joined by my good friends, Senators SMITH and DOLE, at the D.C. Central Kitchen where we announced the formation of the Senate Hunger Caucus and discussed many of the key hunger issues in America. The D.C. Central Kitchen is located just a few blocks from the U.S. Capitol and is a nationally known food rescue organization. The D.C. Central Kitchen converts rescued or donated food into 4,000 meals each day, 365 days a year, which feed the hungry in the Washington metropolitan area. As a part of the D.C. Central Kitchen program, unemployed people are trained to gain job skills that enable them to find work in the culinary arts industry. The D.C. Central Kitchen is a great model for taking wasted food and turning it into nutritious meals and economic opportunities for people in need.

We were pleased to be joined at today's event by representatives of many of the national anti-hunger groups that we look forward to partnering with in this effort: Some of these groups include: America's Second Harvest, American School Food Service Association,

Bread for the World, Congressional Hunger Center, Food Research and Action Center, Share Our Strength, the World Food Program and Heifer International.

At this time, I want to recognize many of the Arkansas groups working to fight hunger and encourage nutritious living, and they include: Arkansas Hunger Coalition, Arkansas Foodbank Network, Harvest Texarkana, Potluck, Inc., Arkansas Rice Depot, Northwest Arkansas Foodbank, Northeast Arkansas Foodbank, North Central Arkansas Foodbank, Southwest Arkansas, Food bank, Bradley County Helping Hand, Ozark Foodbank, Memphis Foodbank, Winrock, Heifer International, Arkansas School Food Service Association, Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families, Arkansas Community Action Agencies, Arkansas Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry, local food pantries, churches and many others who work to feed Arkansans in need. Many of these groups are also using today as a time to talk about hunger and food insecurity.

In closing, it's easy for me to be passionate about the issue of hunger. As a farmer's daughter I was raised with an understanding of the value of having access to food—to good, safe and nutritious food. As the daughter of two compassionate, Christian parents I was taught to help others and to share my blessings with those in need. As a mother of two young boys I can empathize with the fear that a parent feels when they must answer a hungry child when there is no food to be eaten. Just the other day, one of my boys ran into the house and said "Mom, I'm starving." And I replied, "what would you like?" Later on I thought about the mothers whose children ask the same question but they don't have food to offer, they can't just reach into the cabinet to pull out food. It was a devastating thought and my heart goes out to the mothers and fathers who at times are not sure where the next meal is coming from.

My home State of Arkansas knows hunger. With almost 600,000 Arkansans living below the national poverty line, hunger, food insecurity, obesity and limited access to nutritious foods are key issues. With a State population of 2.6 million, approximately 380,000 Arkansans live in food insecure households.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Senate as well as hunger non-profit organizations in my State and across the Nation to find solutions to hunger problems plaguing our nation and world. And to dream of the day when globally, working together to harness our vast resources, we can end hunger.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY

and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

David Blair, also known as Steve Perry, was found dead by the Ketchikan, AK, police department on July 26, 2001. Terry Simpson, Jr., 19, and Joshua Anderson, 20, were arrested in response to a tip in which the informant said he overheard the two men bragging that they were planning to "beat up and rob Blair because he is a fag."

I believe that Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. By passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

ADVANCING MEDICAL RESEARCH

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I joined 56 of my Senate colleagues and over 200 in the House of Representatives in writing the President asking that he work with the Congress toward a policy that will enable important medical research to proceed utilizing stem cells from frozen embryos that were created to treat infertility problems and which are now slated to be discarded. Continued studies using stem cell technology offer hope for a better future for millions of people afflicted with a wide range of illnesses and conditions, including Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, Parkinson's disease, cancer and others.

Presently there are estimated to be more than 400,000 in vitro fertilized embryos that were developed to enable couples to have children, but that are now not needed for that purpose. These frozen embryos are likely to be destroyed. The President could hasten the progress of this important research by modifying his present policy to permit these embryos to be donated, with the consent of the couple, for stem cell research. I look forward to working with the President toward this goal.

PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTION RULING

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I rise to address the alarming decision handed down earlier this week by a District Court in California on partial birth abortion.

The judge's decision was wrong on many fronts. It is wrong on the medical facts, and it is wrong in its blatant disregard of Congressional findings. Most importantly, the decision is also wrong on the law. This ruling is unconstitutional, as well as violative of fundamental human rights, because it drives a wedge between biological humanity which prenatal human offspring undeniably have, and legal

personhood i.e., the right to the equal protection of the law. The repellant notion underlying *Roe v. Wade*—that there are "subhuman" members of the human species—conflicts directly with the very purposes of the thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth amendments, which undid the great injustice of treating black Americans as slaves and property instead of as human beings entitled at law to full respect. I realize that the Supreme Court has not yet repudiated this holding of *Roe*, which it imposed upon the Nation in 1973, but this case decided by one district court in California is clearly going in a direction that contradicts everything we value about the Constitution and the principles under which this Nation and its people operate.

First, Judge Phyllis Hamilton dismisses the overwhelming medical evidence that it is never medically necessary—to save the life of the mother or any other reason—to perform the gruesome partial-birth abortion procedure—in which a young human is partially born, so that only the head remains in her mother, and then a sharp object pierces the back of the child's head and sucks the child's brain out, killing the child.

Think about that, a baby—a young human baby—is partially born, so that only her head remains in her mother's birth canal. Then an abortion-provider punctures the back of the child's head with a surgical instrument. Then the abortion provider suctions the young human's brains out, leaving the child dead, dead, dead.

There is no recourse for the young human. This is a cold-blooded murder. And if this District Court has its way, the young child will never receive justice for her gruesome murder.

Before I address Judge Hamilton's disregard of Congressional findings, I want to talk in particular about the issue of fetal pain, which Judge Hamilton alleges is "irrelevant."

I would submit that were we to see a puppy have its head punctured and brains sucked out, we would not consider it irrelevant. We would be moved to protect the puppy.

Yet, we are not talking about a dog; we are talking about a young human. And the judge in California says that pain is irrelevant when we are talking about a young human.

We are elected representatives. We have an obligation to defend the Constitution. This includes defending the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. First among these 3 is life. We have an obligation to defend the right to life for the most defenseless and helpless among us. Our laws should protect the sanctity and dignity of every innocent human life from the moment of conception.

Judge Hamilton notes that there is some debate within the medical com-

munity on the issue of fetal pain. Then she acknowledges that: "the position that Congress has taken [on pain experienced by unborn children] is neither incorrect nor entirely unsupported."

But then she disregards the Congressional finding that partial-birth abortion is never medically necessary and writes something incredibly callous: "[Pain experienced by unborn children] is, however, irrelevant to the question of whether the Act requires a health exception, as discussed in this court's conclusions of law."

Irrelevant? First, partial-birth abortion is never medically necessary, and since the gruesome partial-birth abortion procedure is never medically necessary, an essential reason for abolishing this dreadful form of death is the terrible pain inflicted on the unborn child.

Pain experienced by an unborn child is very relevant.

Just before the recess, I introduced the Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act, S. 2466, with nearly a quarter of the Members of this chamber as original cosponsors.

This legislation would require those who perform abortions on unborn children 20 weeks after fertilization to inform the woman seeking an abortion of the medical evidence that the unborn child feels pain.

The bill would also ensure that the woman, if she chooses to continue with the abortion procedure after being given the medical information, has the option of choosing anesthesia for the child, so that the unborn child's pain is less severe.

Women should not be kept in the dark; women have the right to know what their unborn child experiences during an abortion. Unborn children should be spared needless, deliberately-inflicted pain.

Many among us are unaware of the scientific, medical fact that unborn children can feel, but it is true. Not only can they feel, but their ability to experience pain is heightened. The highest density of pain receptors per square inch of skin in human development occurs in utero from 20 to 30 weeks gestation.

An expert report on fetal development, prepared for the partial birth abortion ban trials, notes that while unborn children are obviously incapable of verbal expressions, we know that they can experience pain based upon anatomical, functional, physiological and behavioral indicators that are correlated with pain in children and adults.

Unborn children can experience pain. This is why unborn children are often